

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 9, 11-13, 16-21, 23 and 24 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter.

In view of the herein contained amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 11-13, 17, 18, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over SUZUKI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,048,967) in view of KAZUMI (JP 06-129844). Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over SUZUKI et al. in view of KAZUMI and further in view of HAGIWARA (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,433).

The Examiner indicated claims 1, 3-8 and 22 to be allowed. The Examiner further objected to claim 16 as being dependent upon a rejected based claim but indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of any of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has cancelled all of the rejected claims pending in the present application together with objected to claim 16. Accordingly, at least based on the Examiner's indication, all the claims pending in the present application are now allowable and an action to such effect is respectfully requested in due course.

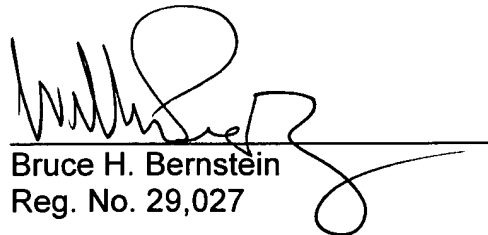
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has canceled all of the rejected claims and has thus rendered the rejections moot.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Tuyoshi ISHIKAWA



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191